REMARKS

I. Summary of Office Action

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakura et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,214,587 (hereinafter "Sakura").

II. Summary of Telephonic Interview

On March 29, 2006, the undersigned's colleague,
Brian E. Mack (Reg. No. 57,189), had a telephone conversation
with the Examiner regarding the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of
claim 1. Mr. Mack and the Examiner discussed specifically the
proposed amendment of engaging tissue of an opening in the
sidewall of one blood vessel and another blood vessel. The
Examiner agreed that claim 1, as currently amended, was not
anticipated by the Sakura reference because the Sakura reference
refers only to end-to-end vessel connections. The Examiner
indicated, however, that a new search of sidewall connections
would have to be performed.

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone call.

III. Applicants' Reply

Applicants have amended claim 1 to more particularly define applicants' invention. For the reasons set forth in the

Reply to Final Office Action dated January 31, 2006, applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

IV. <u>Conclusion</u>

The foregoing demonstrates that claim 1 is allowable.

This application is therefore in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are

accordingly respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart W. Yothers

Registration No. 53,816

Attorney for Applicants

Fish & Neave IP Group

Ropes & Gray LLP

Customer No. 1473

1251 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10020-1105

Tel.: (212) 596-9000 Fax: (212) 596-9090